to empower such officers and employees of the Department of Commerce as he may designate, or such officers and employees of other departments as may be detailed for the purpose, to make arrests and seize vessels and sponges, and upon his request the Secretary of the Treasury may employ the vessels of the Coast Guard or the employees of the Customs Service to that end.

(Aug. 15, 1914, ch. 253, §5, 38 Stat. 692; Jan. 28, 1915, ch. 20, §1, 38 Stat. 800; 1939 Reorg. Plan No. II, §4(e), eff. July 1, 1939, 4 F.R. 2731, 53 Stat. 1431; Aug. 4, 1949, ch. 393, §§1, 20, 63 Stat. 495, 561; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

Secretary of Commerce" and "Department of Commerce" substituted in text for "Secretary of the Interior" and "Department of the Interior" in view of: creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Department of Commerce and Office of Administrator of such Administration; abolition of Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Department of the Interior and Office of Director of such Bureau; transfers of functions, including functions formerly vested by law in Secretary of the Interior or Department of the Interior which were administered through Bureau of Commercial Fisheries or were primarily related to such Bureau, exclusive of certain enumerated functions with respect to Great Lakes fishery research, Missouri River Reservoir research, Gulf Breeze Biological Laboratory, and Trans-Alaska pipeline investigations; and transfer of marine sport fish program of Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employ-

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

"Coast Guard" substituted in text for "Revenue Cut-

"Coast Guard" substituted in text for "Revenue Cutter Service" on authority of act Jan. 28, 1915, which combined Revenue Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service to form Coast Guard. That act was repealed by section 20 of act Aug. 4, 1949, section 1 of which reestablished Coast Guard by enacting Title 14, Coast Guard.

Coast Guard transferred to Department of Transportation and all functions, powers, and duties, relating to Coast Guard, of Secretary of the Treasury and of other offices and officers of Department of the Treasury transferred to Secretary of Transportation by section 6(b)(1) of Pub. L. 89-670, Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 938. See section 108 of Title 49, Transportation.

Functions of all officers of Department of the Treasury, and functions of all agencies and employees of

such Department, transferred, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Treasury, with power vested in him to authorize their performance or performance of any of his functions, by any of such officers, agencies, and employees, by Reorg. Plan No. 26 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. July 31, 1950, 15 F.R. 4935, 64 Stat. 1280, 1281, set out in the Appendix to Title 5. Customs Service, referred to in this section, was a service under Department of the Treasury, and Coast Guard, also referred to in this section, was generally a service under such Department, but such Plan excepted, from transfer, functions of Coast Guard, and of Commandant thereof, when Coast Guard was operating as a part of the Navy under sections 1 and 3 of Title 14, Coast Guard.

Reorg. Plan No. III of 1940, §3, eff. June 30, 1940, 5 F.R. 2108, 54 Stat. 1232, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, consolidated Bureau of Fisheries and Bureau of Biological Survey with their respective functions into one agency in Department of the Interior to be known as Fish and Wildlife Service, and provided that functions of the consolidated agency shall be administered under direction and supervision of Secretary of the Interior.

Reorg. Plan No. II of 1930, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, transferred Bureau of Fisheries in Department of Commerce and its functions to Department of the Interior, to be administered under direction and supervision of Secretary of the Interior.

# CHAPTER 12—FEDERAL REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POWER

SUBCHAPTER I—REGULATION OF THE DEVELOP-MENT OF WATER POWER AND RESOURCES

Sec.

791. Repealed.

791a. Short title.

792. Federal P

Federal Power Commission; creation; number; appointment; term; qualifications; vacancies; quorum; chairman; salary; place of holding sessions.

793. Appointment of officers and employees of Commission; duties, and salaries; detail of officers and employees from other departments; expenditures authorized.

793a to 795. Repealed or Omitted.

796. Definitions.

797. General powers of Commission.

- (a) Investigations and data.
- (b) Statements as to investment of licenses in projects; access to projects, maps, etc.
- (c) Cooperation with executive departments; information and aid furnished Commission.
- (d) Publication of information, etc.; reports to Congress.
- (e) Issue of licenses for construction, etc., of dams, conduits, reservoirs,
- (f) Preliminary permits; notice of application.
- (g) Investigation of occupancy for developing power; orders.

797a. Congressional authorization for permits, licenses, leases, or authorizations for dams, conduits, reservoirs, etc., within national parks or monuments.

797b. Duty to keep Congress fully and currently informed.

797c. Dams in National Park System units.

797d. Third party contracting by FERC.

- (a) Environmental impact statements.
- (b) Environmental assessments.
- (c) Effective date.
- 798. Purpose and scope of preliminary permits; transfer and cancellation.
- 799. License; duration, conditions, revocation, alteration, or surrender.

Sec. Sec. 800. Issuance of preliminary permits or licenses. (a) Receipts from charges. (a) Preference. (b) Delinquent payments. (b) Development of water resources by Operation of navigation facilities; rules and 811 United States; reports.
(c) Assumption of project by United regulations; penalties. Public-service licensee; regulations by State 812 States after expiration of license. or by commission as to service, rates, 801. Transfer of license; obligations of transferee. charges, etc. 813. Power entering into interstate commerce; 802. Information to accompany application for license; landowner notification. regulation of rates, charges, etc. 803. Conditions of license generally. 814. Exercise by licensee of power of eminent do-(a) Modification of plans; factors considmain. Contract to furnish power extending beyond ered to secure adaptability of 815. project; recommendations for properiod of license; obligations of new liposed terms and conditions. censee. 816. Preservation of rights vested prior to June 10. (b) Alterations in project works. (c) Maintenance and repair of project 817. Projects not affecting navigable waters; neworks; liability of licensee for damcessity for Federal license, permit or rightages. of-way; unauthorized activities. (d) Amortization reserves. Public lands included in project; reservation (e) Annual charges payable by licensees; 818. of lands from entry. maximum rates; application; review 819. Repealed. and report to Congress. Proceedings for revocation of license or to 820. (f) Reimbursement by licensee of other prevent violations of license. licensees, etc. State laws and water rights unaffected. 821 (g) Conditions in discretion of commis-822. Reservation of right to alter or repeal chapsion. (h) Monopolistic combinations; preven-823. Repeal of inconsistent laws. tion or minimization of anti-823a. Conduit hydroelectric facilities. competitive conduct; action by (a) Exemption qualifications. Commission regarding license and (b) Maximum installation capacity for operation and maintenance exemption. project. (c) Consultation with Federal and State (i) Waiver of conditions. agencies. (j) Fish and wildlife protection, mitiga-(d) Violation of terms of exemption. tion and enhancement; consider-(e) Fees for studies. ation of recommendations; findings. 823b. Enforcement. 804. Project works affecting navigable waters; re-(a) Monitoring and investigation. quirements insertable in license. (b) Revocation orders. 805. Participation by Government in costs of (c) Civil penalty. locks, etc. (d) Assessment. 806. Time limit for construction of project works; Alaska State jurisdiction over small hydro-823c. extension of time; termination or revocaelectric projects. tion of licenses for delay. (a) Discontinuance of regulation by the 807. Right of Government to take over project Commission. (b) Definition of "qualifying project (a) Compensation; condemnation by Fedworks". eral or State Government. (c) Election of State licensing. (b) Relicensing proceedings; (d) Project works on Federal lands.(e) Consultation with affected agencies. agency recommendations of take over by Government; stay of orders (f) Application of Federal laws. for new licenses; termination of (g) Oversight by the Commission. stay; notice to Congress. (h) Resumption of Commission authority. 808. New licenses and renewals. (i) Determination by the Commission. (a) Relicensing procedures; terms and (j) Fish and wildlife. conditions; issuance to applicant 823d. Alternative conditions and prescriptions. with proposal best adapted to serve (a) Alternative conditions. public interest; factors considered. (b) Alternative prescriptions. (b) Notification of intention regarding SUBCHAPTER II—REGULATION OF renewal; public availability of docu-UTILITY COMPANIES ENGAGED IN INTERSTATE ments; notice to public and Federal COMMERCE agencies; identification of Federal or Indian lands included; additional 824 Declaration of policy; application of subinformation required. chapter. (c) Time of filing application; consulta-(a) Federal regulation of transmission tion and participation in studies and sale of electric energy. with fish and wildlife agencies; no-(b) Use or sale of electric energy in intertice to applicants; adjustment of state commerce. time periods. (c) Electric energy in interstate com-(d) Adequacy of transmission facilities; provision of services to successor by merce. 'Sale of electric energy at wholesale" existing licensee; tariff; final order; defined.

824a.

modification, extension or termi-

(f) Nonpower use licenses; recordkeeping.

Temporary use by Government of project

Disposition of charges arising from licenses.

works for national safety; compensation for

nation of order.
(e) License term on relicensing.

809

810

'Public utility'' defined.

(g) Books and records.

countries.

(f) United States, State, political subdivision of a State, or agency or in-

strumentality thereof exempt.

Interconnection and coordination of facili-

ties; emergencies; transmission to foreign

824e.

824g.

Sec.

- (a) Regional districts; establishment; notice to State commissions.
- (b) Sale or exchange of energy; establishing physical connections.
- (c) Temporary connection and exchange of facilities during emergency.
- (d) Temporary connection during emergency by persons without jurisdiction of Commission.
- (e) Transmission of electric energy to foreign country.
- (f) Transmission or sale at wholesale of  ${\it electric\ energy;\ regulation.}$
- (g) Continuance of service.

824a-1. Pooling.

- (a) State laws.
- (b) Pooling study.

824a-2. Reliability.

- (a) Study
- (b) Examination of reliability issues by reliability councils.
- (c) Department of Energy recommendations.
- Cogeneration and small power production. 824a-3.
  - (a) Cogeneration and small power production rules.
  - (b) Rates for purchases by electric utilities.
  - (c) Rates for sales by utilities.
  - "Incremental cost of alternative electric energy" defined.
  - (e) Exemptions.
  - (f) Implementation of rules for qualifying cogeneration and qualifying small power production facilities.
  - (g) Judicial review and enforcement.
  - (h) Commission enforcement.
  - (i) Federal contracts.
  - (j) New dams and diversions.
  - (k) "New dam or diversion" defined.
  - (l) Definitions.
  - (m) Termination of mandatory purchase and sale requirements.
  - (n) Rulemaking for new qualifying facilities.
- Seasonal diversity electricity exchange. 824a-4.
  - (a) Authority.

    - (b) Permit.
    - Timely acquisition by other means.
    - (d) Payments by permittees.
- (e) Federal law governing Federal lands. 824b. Disposition of property; consolidations; purchase of securities.
  - (a) Authorization.
  - (b) Orders of Commission.
- Issuance of securities; assumption of liabil-824c.
  - (a) Authorization by Commission.
  - (b) Application approval or modification; supplemental orders.
  - Compliance with order of Commission.
  - (d) Authorization of capitalization not to exceed amount paid.
  - Notes or drafts maturing less than one year after issuance.
  - (f) Public utility securities regulated by
  - State not affected. Guarantee or obligation on part of
  - United States. (h) Filing duplicate reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- 824d. Rates and charges; schedules; suspension of new rates; automatic adjustment clauses.
  - (a) Just and reasonable rates.
  - (b) Preference or advantage unlawful.
  - (c) Schedules.
  - (d) Notice required for rate changes.
  - Suspension of new rates; hearings; five-month period.

(f) Review of automatic adjustment clauses and public utility practices; action by Commission; "automatic

adjustment clause" defined.
of Commission to fix rates and Power charges; determination of cost of production or transmission.

- (a) Unjust or preferential rates, etc.; statement of reasons for changes; hearing; specification of issues.
- (b) Refund effective date; preferential proceedings; statement of reasons for delay; burden of proof; scope of refund order; refund orders in cases of dilatory behavior; interest.
- (c) Refund considerations; shifting costs; reduction in revenues; "electric utility companies" and "registered holding company" defined.
- (d) Investigation of costs.
- (e) Short-term sales. 824f.
  - Ordering furnishing of adequate service. Ascertainment of cost of property and depreciation.
    - (a) Investigation of property costs.
    - (b) Request for inventory and cost statements.

824h. References to State boards by Commission.

- (a) Composition of boards; force and effect of proceedings.
- (b) Cooperation with State commissions.
- (c) Availability of information and reports to State commissions; Commission experts.

824i. Interconnection authority.

- (a) Powers of Commission; application by State regulatory authority.
- (b) Notice, hearing and determination by Commission.
- (c) Necessary findings.
- (d) Motion of Commission.
- (e) Definitions.

824j. Wheeling authority.

- (a) Transmission service by any electric utility; notice, hearing and findings by Commission.
- (b) Reliability of electric service.
- (c) Replacement of electric energy.
- (d) Termination or modification of order; notice, hearing and findings of Commission; contents of order; inclusion in order of terms and conditions agreed upon by parties.
- (e) "Facilities" defined.
- Open access by unregulated transmitting 824j-1. utilities.
  - (a) Definition of unregulated transmitting utility.
  - Transmission operation services.
  - (c) Exemption.
  - (d) Local distribution facilities.
  - (e) Exemption termination.
  - (f) Application to unregulated transmitting utilities.
  - (g) Remand.
  - (h) Other requests.
  - (i) Limitation.
  - (j) Transfer of control of transmitting facilities.

824k. Orders requiring interconnection or wheeling.

- (a) Rates, charges, terms, and conditions for wholesale transmission services.
  - (b) Repealed.
  - (c) Issuance of proposed order; agreement by parties to terms and conditions of order; approval by Commission; inclusion in final order; failure to agree.
  - (d) Statement of reasons for denial.

Sec.		Sec.	
	(e) Savings provisions.		(f) ERCOT utilities.
	(f) Effective date of order; hearing; no-	824u.	Prohibition on filing false information.
	tice; review.	824v.	Prohibition of energy market manipulation.
	(g) Prohibition on orders inconsistent		(a) In general.
	with retail marketing areas.	824w.	(b) No private right of action. Joint boards on economic dispatch.
	(h) Prohibition on mandatory retail	024W.	(a) In general.
	wheeling and sham wholesale trans- actions.		(b) Membership.
	(i) Laws applicable to Federal Columbia		(c) Powers.
	River Transmission System.		(d) Report to the Congress.
	(j) Equitability within territory re-	SUBCHA	APTER III—LICENSEES AND PUBLIC UTILI-
	stricted electric systems.	TIES;	PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
	(k) ERCOT utilities.	PROV:	ISIONS
824l.	Information requirements.	825.	Accounts and records.
	(a) Requests for wholesale transmission	020.	(a) Duty to keep.
	services.		(b) Access to and examination by the
	(b) Transmission capacity and con-		Commission.
004	straints.		(c) Controlling individual.
824m. 824n.	Sales by exempt wholesale generators. Repealed.	825a.	Rates of depreciation; notice to State au-
8240.	Electric reliability.	825b.	thorities before fixing.
0240.	(a) Definitions.	8230.	Requirements applicable to agencies of United States.
	(b) Jurisdiction and applicability.	825c.	Periodic and special reports; obstructing fil-
	(c) Certification.	0200.	ing reports or keeping accounts, etc.
	(d) Reliability standards.	825d.	Officials dealing in securities.
	(e) Enforcement.		(a) Benefits; making or declaring divi-
	(f) Changes in Electric Reliability Orga-		dends out of capital account.
	nization rules.		(b) Interlocking directorates.
	(g) Reliability reports.		(c) Statement of prior positions; defini-
	(h) Coordination with Canada and Mexico.	825e.	tions. Complaints.
	(i) Savings provisions.	825f.	Investigations by Commission.
	(j) Regional advisory bodies.	0201.	(a) Scope.
	(k) Alaska and Hawaii.		(b) Attendance of witnesses and produc-
824p.	Siting of interstate electric transmission fa-		tion of documents.
	cilities.		(c) Resort to courts of United States for
	(a) Designation of national interest elec-		failure to obey subpena; punish-
	tric transmission corridors.		ment.
	(b) Construction permit.		(d) Testimony by deposition.
	(c) Permit applications.		(e) Deposition of witness in a foreign country.
	(d) Comments.		(f) Deposition fees.
	<ul><li>(e) Rights-of-way.</li><li>(f) Compensation.</li></ul>	825g.	Hearings; rules of procedure.
	(g) State law.	825h.	Administrative powers of Commission; rules,
	(h) Coordination of Federal authoriza-		regulations, and orders.
	tions for transmission facilities.	825i.	Appointment of officers and employees; com-
	(i) Interstate compacts.	00=1	pensation.
	(j) Relationship to other laws.	825j.	Investigations relating to electric energy; re-
	(k) ERCOT.	825k.	ports to Congress. Publication and sale of reports.
824q.	Native load service obligation.	825k.	Review of orders.
	(a) Definitions.	0201.	(a) Application for rehearing; time peri-
	(b) Meeting service obligations.		ods; modification of order.
	<ul><li>(c) Allocation of transmission rights.</li><li>(d) Certain transmission rights.</li></ul>		(b) Judicial review.
	(e) Obligation to build.		(c) Stay of Commission's order.
	(f) Contracts.	825m.	Enforcement provisions.
	(g) Water pumping facilities.		(a) Enjoining and restraining violations.
	(h) ERCOT.		<ul><li>(b) Writs of mandamus.</li><li>(c) Employment of attorneys.</li></ul>
	(i) Jurisdiction.		(d) Prohibitions on violators.
	(j) TVA area.	825n.	Forfeiture for violations; recovery; applica-
004	(k) Effect of exercising rights.		bility.
824r.	Protection of transmission contracts in the		(a) Forfeiture.
	Pacific Northwest.		(b) Recovery.
	(a) Definition of electric utility or person.		(c) Applicability.
	(b) Protection of transmission contracts.	8250.	Penalties for violations; applicability of sec-
824s.	Transmission infrastructure investment.		tion. (a) Statutory violations.
02101	(a) Rulemaking requirement.		(b) Rules violations.
	(b) Contents.	8250-1.	Enforcement of certain provisions.
	(c) Incentives.	0200 1.	(a) Violations.
	(d) Just and reasonable rates.		(b) Civil penalties.
824t.	Electricity market transparency rules.	825p.	Jurisdiction of offenses; enforcement of li-
	(a) In general.		abilities and duties.
	(b) Exemption of information from dis- closure.	825q.	Repealed.
	closure. (c) Information sharing.	825q–1. 825r.	Office of Public Participation. Separability.
	(d) Exemption from reporting require-	825s.	Sale of electric power from reservoir projects;
	ments.		rate schedules; preference in sale; construc-
	(e) Penalties for violations occurring be-		tion of transmission lines; disposition of
	fore notice.		moneys.

Sec.

825s-1. Southwestern area sale and transmission of electric power; disposition of receipts; creation of continuing fund; use of fund.

825s-2. Southeastern area sale and transmission of electric power; disposition of receipts; creation of continuing fund; use of fund.

825s-3. Southwestern area sale at uniform systemwide rates of electric power over transmission lines constructed with appropriated funds or used under contractual arrangements.

825s-4. Southwestern Power Administration; deposit and availability of advance payments.

825t. Utilization of power revenues.

825u. Interest rate on power bonds held by Administrator of General Services.

# SUBCHAPTER IV—STATE AND MUNICIPAL WATER CONSERVATION FACILITIES

828. Facilitation of development and construction of water conservation facilities; exemption from certain Federal requirements.

828a. Definitions.

828b. Exemption from formula, books and records, and project cost statement requirements; annual charges.

828c. Applicability of this subchapter.

# SUBCHAPTER I—REGULATION OF THE DE-VELOPMENT OF WATER POWER AND RE-SOURCES

#### CODIFICATION

Section 212 of act of Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 687, 49 Stat. 847, provided that sections 1 to 29 of the Federal Water Power Act, as amended (sections 792, 793, 794 to 797, 798 to 818, 819, and 820 to 823 of this title) shall constitute part I of the act. Said section 212 also repealed sections 25 and 30 of the act (sections 819, 791 of this title). It also contained a proviso as follows: "That nothing in that Act, as amended, shall be construed to repeal or amend the provisions of the amendment to the Federal Water Power Act approved March 3, 1921 (41 Stat. 1353 [section 797a of this title]), or the provisions of any other Act relating to national parks and national monuments."

## § 791. Repealed. Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 687, title II, § 212, 49 Stat. 847

Section, act June 10, 1920, ch. 285, §30, 41 Stat. 1077, designated the act as The Federal Water Power Act.

#### § 791a. Short title

This chapter may be cited as the "Federal Power Act".

(June 10, 1920, ch. 285, pt. III, §321, formerly §320, as added Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 687, title II, §213, 49 Stat. 863; renumbered Pub. L. 95-617, title II, §212, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3148.)

# CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of part III of the Federal Power Act, and not as part of part I of that Act which comprises this subchapter.

### SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101–575, §1, Nov. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 2834, provided that: "This Act [enacting section 2243 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amending sections 796 and 824a–3 of this title and sections 2014, 2061, 2201, and 2284 of Title 42, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 796 of this title] may be cited as the 'Solar, Wind, Waste, and Geothermal Power Production Incentives Act of 1990'."

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-473, §1, Oct. 6, 1988, 102 Stat. 2299, provided that: "This Act [amending section 824e of this title and

enacting provisions set out as notes under section 824e of this title] may be cited as the 'Regulatory Fairness Act' ''

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99–495, §1(a), Oct. 16, 1986, 100 Stat. 1243, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 797b and 823b of this title, amending sections 797, 800, 802, 803, 807, 808, 817, 823a, 824a–3, and 824j of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 797, 803, 823a, 824a–3, and 825h of this title] may be cited as the 'Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986'."

# § 792. Federal Power Commission; creation; number; appointment; term; qualifications; vacancies; quorum; chairman; salary; place of holding sessions

A commission is created and established to be known as the Federal Power Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "commission") which shall be composed of five commissioners who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President as chairman and shall be the principal executive officer of the commission. Each chairman, when so designated, shall act as such until the expiration of his term of office.

The commissioners first appointed under this section, as amended, shall continue in office for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years, respectively, from June 23, 1930, the term of each to be designated by the President at the time of nomination. Their successors shall be appointed each for a term of five years from the date of the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed and until his successor is appointed and has qualified, except that he shall not so continue to serve beyond the expiration of the next session of Congress subsequent to the expiration of said fixed term of office, and except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the unexpired term. Not more than three of the commissioners shall be appointed from the same political party. No person in the employ of or holding any official relation to any licensee or to any person, firm, association, or corporation engaged in the generation, transmission, distribution, or sale of power, or owning stock or bonds thereof, or who is in any manner pecuniarily interested therein, shall enter upon the duties of or hold the office of commissioners. Said commissioners shall not engage in any other business, vocation, or employment. No vacancy in the commission shall impair the right of the remaining commissioners to exercise all the powers of the commission. Three members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the commission shall have an official seal of which judicial notice shall be taken. The commission shall annually elect a vice chairman to act in case of the absence or disability of the chairman or in case of a vacancy in the office of chairman.

Each commissioner shall receive necessary traveling and subsistence expenses, or per diem allowance in lieu thereof, within the limitation prescribed by law, while away from the seat of government upon official business.